

*minor* and *Trapa natans* (op. cit.), the appearance of *Wolffia columbiana* in abundance (Eaton, 1939), as well as the increasingly conspicuous occurrence of *Potamogeton pusillus* (*P. panormitanus* Biv., cf. Eaton & Griscom, 1934), and *Phragmites communis* var. *Berlandieri* (Eaton, 1952).—RICHARD J. EATON, LINCOLN, MASSACHUSETTS.

## LITERATURE CITED

- EATON, R. J., 1939. *Wolffia columbiana* in Concord, Massachusetts. *RHODORA* **41**: 42-43.
- . 1947. *Lemna minor* as an aggressive weed in the Sudbury River. *RHODORA* **49**: 165-171.
- . 1952. Status of *Phragmites communis* var. *Berlandieri* along the Sudbury River, etc. *RHODORA* **54**: 135.
- . and L. GRISCOM, 1934. *Potamogeton panormitanus* in the Sudbury River. *RHODORA* **36**: 312-313.

POLYGONUM BICORNE RAF. INSTEAD OF P. LONGISTYLUM SMALL.—*Polygonum longistylum* is a rather showy species, common in the Gulf Southwestern states. One would expect that such a plant must surely have been noticed earlier than 1894, when it was described by Small (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **21**: 169; in 1903 transferred to *Persicaria*, in Fl. S. E. U. S. 377, 1330). As might be expected, the much abused Rafinesque had named it in his *Florula Ludoviciana*, p. 29, 1817, with a description that for him was exceptionally full and clear: "Caulibus ramosis, ramis geniculatis, patulis, teretibus, intus crenulatis; foliis petiolatis, lanceolatis, glabris; floribus spicatis confertis octandris, distylis, staminibus inclusis, stylis exertis elongatis. Raf.—Renouée 1. Rob. p. 366. Large plant, four or five feet high, branches purplish, every one of which bears a fine, thick spike, about three inches long, of rose coloured flowers. This species, and all the following, grow in swamps, moist grounds, and along the rivers; they are called vulgarly *Curages*, in Louisiana; all their flowers smell like honey, and afford it in plenty to the bees. Blossoms from August to September." Later, under *P. vernum*, he adds: "This species, as well as the *P. bicornne* and *P. maculatum*, above, belong to the subgenus *Diocetus*, distinguished by having eight stamens, a compressed ovary and seed, two styles or stigmas, & c." In 1914 the new combination *Persicaria bicornis* (Raf.) Nieuwland was published

(Amer. Midl. Nat. **3**: 201), but otherwise Rafinesque's species has been completely ignored. This is a consequence of prejudice and ignorance: his description is unmistakable. The special condemnation of the *Florula Ludoviciana*, on the grounds that Rafinesque did not visit the state and saw no specimens, but named species on the basis of inadequate descriptions, is quite unjustified. Robin, upon whose *Flore Louisianaise* Rafinesque based his publication, was a serious amateur botanist who had studied Jussieu's textbook. He tells us that every description was made in the field, with the living plant before him ("Elles ont été faites sur les lieux, au milieu des bois et des prairies, et toujours en présence de l'objet que je décrivais. Si elles se ressentent à beaucoup d'égards des incommodités que j'ai dû éprouver, du moins elles ont pour elles la fidélité . . ."). Most of his descriptions are quite long—much longer than the abridged ones of Rafinesque. Though local uses of plants often make up a considerable portion of his accounts, the botanical information is still considerable—more ample, it may be remarked, than is to be found in Walter's *Flora Caroliniana*, which has been spared the obloquy awarded to Rafinesque. Even Linnaeus cites many descriptions from Bauhin and others which are far less intelligible than most of Rafinesque's, and Robin's originals are far more than we get in many sources quoted by Linnaeus. And Linnaeus likewise, in case after case, saw no specimens and never visited the native country involved. In further defense of the *Florula Ludoviciana*, it should be pointed out that the region covered is really quite restricted, and the main part of it relatively well known botanically: hardly a quarter of a century after its publication, considerable toptype material was available, by means of which the species could have been evaluated. Robin spent most of his stay in and around New Orleans, making only two long trips into the back country: one in early spring, up the Mississippi, Red, and Ouachita rivers to present Monroe, Louisiana; another just after mid summer (it was necessary to wait until the marshy country was dry enough for travel) nearly due west from New Orleans about half way across the state, then a little north to "the country of the Atakapas," to the south of present Opelousas. The deliberate disregard of nearly all of Rafinesque's

Louisiana species resulted from several causes, which unhappily still exist: a hostile prejudice against the man and his work; the rarity of copies of Robin's *Voyages* (no botanist to my knowledge went to the trouble of checking back to the original source; the lie that the descriptions were scrappy and inadequate has been monotonously repeated by persons who never saw Robin's 3-volume book); the paucity of collections and general lack of information (especially first-hand field acquaintance) about the Louisiana flora. On the basis of such limited studies as I have made so far, I am confident that most of the species of the *Florula Ludoviciana* can be satisfactorily identified. Since its early date (1817) gives it priority over most of the work of Elliott and all of that of Nuttall, Torrey, and Gray, there will undoubtedly be further name changes. Rafinesque himself did eventually see specimens from Louisiana, and was able to supply additional notes or confirmations for some of his *Florula Ludoviciana* species in the *New Flora of North America* and *Autikon Botanikon*. It is worth citing one extraordinary case in which Rafinesque was an excessive lumpner. His *Oxalis sanguinolaria* (*Fl. Ludov.* 89) included what Robin had listed as two distinct species, not named. Rafinesque's abridged description makes it impossible to assign his name with precision. But Robin's ampler descriptions, for anyone who has seen the southeastern Louisiana spring flora, leaves not the slightest doubt that he was describing the very distinct *O. recurva* Ell. and *O. Dillenii* Jacq. var. *radicans* Shinnars (for a key to these, see Field & Lab. 24: 39-40, 1956). Rafinesque had been too conservative, and *Oxalis sanguinolaria* must be rejected as based on an inextricable mixture.—LLOYD H. SHINNERS, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, DALLAS 5, TEXAS.

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DENTARIA LACINIATA FROM SEED.—In a paper on the genus *Dentaria* in eastern North America, Montgomery\* ascribes sterility to certain species, among these *D. laciniata*. He states that "pods may develop to a good size, but when the contents are examined, they will most frequently be found to contain aborted ovules," and that apparently mature seeds of *D. laciniata*

\* Montgomery, F. H. 1955. Preliminary studies in the genus *Dentaria* in eastern North America. RHODORA 57: 161-173.